**Prayers of the People for Sunday May 17th**

Let us pray to God, our help in ages past, and our hope for today.

Creator God, we give thanks for the beauty that surrounds us here in Scugog; for the purples and pinks of the sky at dawn and dusk, for birdsong rising up in praise, for a thousand shades of green in fields and tree tops, for tiny flowers peeking up toward the sun,
for the renewal of the earth in spring,
**We thank You, Lord.**

Jesus, our King, we pray for the needs of the world in this time of pandemic. We pray desperately for the eradication of Covid-19 from the face of the earth. Humanity the people of every country in the world need freedom from the destruction being caused by the virus. We pray that You will grant wisdom to Justin Trudeau and all world leaders as they make difficult decisions in the coming days. Guide each of us as we work toward doing our part for the well-being of all.
**Lord in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace, in an upside down world, we pray for peace. For peace in our hearts, the kind of soul-peace that only You can give, Lord. We pray for peace within families, asking for safety for those whose homes are not a safe harbour. We pray for peace within Canada, and for peace within the world, remembering especially Afghanistan as they mourn the loss of murdered new moms, babies, and staff at the maternity hospital.
**Lord in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we pray for all who are at work in essential services. Thank you for their courage, Lord, to face the invisible Covid -19 enemy while they work and we remain safely at home. Thank you for their willingness to address our needs while putting themselves at risk. Lord, support and strengthen them, and grant them everything they need.
**Lord in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.**Jesus, our Great Physician, we pray for all those who are currently sick with the Coronavirus, and for their families. And we pray for those who are ill with something other than Covid, asking that they will not fall through the cracks in a health care system that is stretched to the limits. We pray for all those who are experiencing anxiety or depression. For those with food insecurity, for the homeless. And we pray, O Lord, for the many, many people who are mourning at this time. We remember Lori Dolloff as she mourns the loss of her husband the Rev Canon Dennis Dolloff. Enfold each one in Your loving arms, O Lord, and comfort them.
**Lord in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

Lord God, Your people pray for resilience for all of us in the changes we face, in both our day-to-day life, and in our life as followers of Christ. Help us to use this time during the pandemic to connect more deeply with You, Lord. To read our Bibles, to pray, and to meditate. To remember that, even though we can’t spend time with each other, that this is the perfect time to spend more time with You, Lord. Help us to let go of the things that You are leading Your Church to let go of, and help us to embrace whatever new surprises that You have in store for us, without whining too much about the way things used to be. Lead Your Ascension People, Lord, and grant us courage to follow.
**Lord in Your mercy, Hear our prayer.
Amen.**